

and intended as real compensation for real injury. The bill also proposes that a landowner who installs drainage tile shall give public notice of such construction in a county wide publication or a newspaper thirty days prior to commencement of any construction. There have been many problems across the state, and especially in northeast Nebraska, with upper landowners installing drainage tile to drain their land. I have also heard of other problems in other areas of the state. Installing drainage tile seems to create more water. This excess water drains on other property owners land and thus a problem develops. By having the upper landowner publicizing the installation of tile 30 days before construction starts, the other landowners would be alerted. This would give them an opportunity to get together and to work together and perhaps prorate the cost of further tiling. I am hopeful that this proposal will eliminate many court actions and reduce the legal costs to landowners. During the past five or six years I have been contacted by landowners with drainage problems. In fact, I have become personally involved in some of them. I have contacted the local NRD's and also the Public Works Committee of the Legislature. I requested that the Public Works Committee hold an interim study on this hearing last year, which they did, and I'm grateful for it. This public hearing was held in Norfolk last fall and this bill is the result of this particular hearing. I'm not saying to you today that it is a perfect bill, but I think it does address some of the problems that we now have. At least it is a start. I feel that we need to find a solution to this problem. Neighbors have become angry and disgusted with one another, some of them are not on speaking terms. Communities, neighborhoods have become divided and it is not a good situation in our state. In our state we use the slogan, "Nebraska, the Good Life" and then we have neighbors not speaking to one another because of the water drainage problem. Nebraska statutes relating to water drainage have not been addressed by the Legislature since 1929. Conditions change, times change, and I feel it is high time that we try to address the problem. The Natural Resources Commission and several local NRD's are supporting the bill. I feel that they have a lot more experience and expertise on water problems than I have. It is time to make a change, it